MONTEREY NEWS

April 2022 Est. 1970
Vol. LII · Number 4

Pick up at: the library (in and outside), outside town hall, transfer station

The Dignity workshop is coming to Monterey on Thursday, April 14. See page 7 for more information and how to register to attend.

We might be coming out of it, though, for now anyway. Spring and summer ahead have me, for one, literally saying we've got to make hay while the sun shines, for we know not what fall and winter will bring.
From the Meetinghouse page 20

This Earth Day, consider a pledge to do more to protect local webs of life and environmental resilience.
This Earth Day page 9

Building-specific, small-scale solar is not as simple for a town as it is for a homeowner. Proposals, bids, funding, grants—all the details are complicated. Since municipalities are not taxed, those incentives are off the table.
Renewable Working Group page 4

My favorite part of book group was when Franny would bring along her "chicken bag," a purse shaped like a chicken that she filled with random small objects and toys. She would pass the chicken around …
Monterey Youth Book Group page 10

Kenn: "Sure, where are you now?"
"Well, I'm on Pacific Coast Highway heading south … just passed Main Street."
Kenn: "Okay, it's easy. Just take the next left and go three thousand miles …"
Coast-to-Coast Sandwiches page 29

We are asking for submissions of special photos, art, and poems about Monterey. We have some ideas for how to organize the book, but a lot will depend on what people submit, so you can help shape the book!
175th Anniversary Book page 6

And if there is a situation I am not yet ready to forgive, I forgive myself for that.
Heart to Heart page 24

There will always be challenges for Monterey and the select board, however, there is a great deal we can do to keep that rock smaller and more manageable.
Sisyphus and Monterey page 3

Phase 5: The plan is not to inform the constituents of the state of the plan or the phases of the plan or what phase we are in in the plan as this will call for too much planning and cause too much confusion, but please rest assured that things are going according to plan for the phase we are in.
State of the State Message page 2

The Pantry is going strong, but we are in need of more drivers and sorters. Every week we rely on only seven volunteers to make the Pantry happen.
Pantry PickUp page 5

All Monterey students can have Monday, May 30 off from school.
Special School Holiday page 9

Designate Monterey as a Pollinator-Friendly Community. page 25

Now it is time to support the next five years. Some people find pondweeds a challenge. We have an opportunity to be careful, to be observant, and to vote again for a chemical-free Lake Garfield.
"No" to Herbicides page 8

The size of the families in those days was rather astonishing. Col. Giles Jackson, who was a prominent man in the town during the Revolution, was the happy father of an even two dozen children. *(Note: He actually had twenty children, plus five stepchildren).*
History of Monterey at 175 page 12

Town Elections 2022

Town elections will be held on Tuesday, May 10, from noon to 7 p.m., at town hall. Candidates for offices received nomination from either or both the Democratic (D) or Republican (R) caucuses.

Contested Seats

Finance Committee (3 years)
Frank Abbott (D)
Roger Tryon (R)
Select Board (3 years)
Susan Cooper (D)
Jeremy Rawitz (R)

Uncontested Seats

Board of Appeals (Zoning) (5 years)
Gary Shaw (D&R)
Board of Assessors (3 year)
Scott Steibel (D&R)
Board of Health (3 years)
Thomas Mensi (R)
Board of Health (2 years)
Mort Salomon (D&R)
Bylaw Review Committee (1 year)
Anne Marie Enoch (D&R)
Bylaw Review Committee (2) 2 years
Jeff Zimmerman (D&R)
David Myers (D&R)
Bylaw Review Committee (2) 3 years
Pauline Banducci (D&R)
Stuart Litwin (D&R)
Cemetery Commission (3 years)
Michael Banner (D&R)
Constable (3 years)
Julio Rodriques (D&R)
Library Trustee (2) 3 years
Carolee (Mickey) Jervas (D&R)
Rebecca Wolin (D&R)
Library Trustees (2 years)
Nancy Kleban (D&R)
Library Trustees (1 year)
Judy Kamenstein (D&R)
Moderator (1 year)
Mark Makuc (D&R)
Parks Commission (2) 3 years
Gerald Clarin (D&R)
Steven Snyder (D&R)
Parks Commission (1 year) **See note*
Christopher Andrews (D&R)
Planning Board (2) 5 years
Lauren Behrman (D&R)
Margaret Abbott (R)
Planning Board (1 year)
Noel Wicke (D&R)

Candidate Statements
Letters of Support, Opinions

The annual town meeting is on May 7, beginning at 9:30 a.m., at the firehouse pavilion. Town elections are on Tuesday, May 10.

If you have been nominated for an office, or filed nomination papers for yourself, you may want to publish a candidate's statement in the May issue of the *Monterey News*.

The *News* would also be pleased to publish letters of support for one or more candidates. If you know of others supporting the same candidate, you might agree on one letter to be published, but that's not necessary.

Also, please feel free to offer perspectives on any issues to be decided at town meeting by sending a letter to the *News*. Well stated opinions can only help to define the questions and decisions at town meeting on May 7.

It is my hope to have the May issue published well before the beginning of May. The deadline for the *Monterey News* is typically on the 20th of each month but I would appreciate any election content as soon as possible.

Your letters must be signed, and can be emailed (preferred) to MontereyNews9@gmail.com, or sent first class, to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245.

—Stephen Moore, Editor

Tax Collector (1) 3 years
Anne Marie Enoch (D&R)
Tree Warden (1 year)
Myles Pierce (D&R)

State Of The State Message

The state has a six-phase plan for getting things back to the normal state that the state is normally in.

Phase 1: The plan will be a phased plan that will be phased in in phases. The phases will be planned, and the planning will be phased.

Phase 2: A staff of staffers will be created to plan the planning phase of the plan.

Phase 3: A second staff of staffers will be chosen to phase the phases of the plan after they have been planned.

Phase 4: The initial plan is to move quickly, yet slowly and cautiously, as speed, and maintaining bureaucracy, are primary concerns at this phase.

Phase 5: The plan is not to inform the constituents of the state of the plan or the phases of the plan or what phase we are in in the plan as this will call for too much planning and cause too much confusion, but please rest assured that things are going according to plan for the phase we are in.

Phase 6: Any plans that are planned for any phase may be phased out without notice.

(It sounds like things are already getting back to normal.)

—Lyman Thomson

Microphone Handlers Needed

Volunteers needed to carry microphones to speakers at our annual town meeting. If you are interested in volunteering and able to move around on your feet for a few hours, please notify the town administrator or the select board. (Contacts listed inside back page.) Annual town meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., Saturday, May 7, at the pavilion behind the fire station.

—Justin Makuc

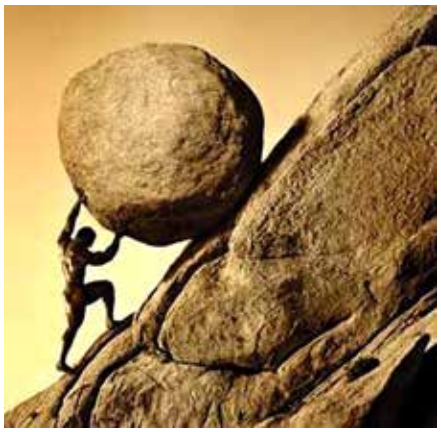
In My View

Sisyphus and the Monterey Select Board

My Uncle Martin, a very practical person, had a statue of Sisyphus in the middle of his living room. For the uninitiated, Sisyphus is a Greek legend of a man who was punished for angering Zeus, by having to roll a rock up a hill for the rest of his life. As my uncle explained it to me, Sisyphus represented the human experience. That every day, people try and accomplish tasks so they may live fulfilled lives. The difficulty lies in the fact that Sisyphus, along with every person on this planet, is imperfect and these human failures turn "life" into a rock that we must constantly push against.

I have often thought about that statue during my years on the Monterey Select Board.

Small-town government can be like rolling a rock up a hill. There are constant "forces" that make achieving positive change a difficult battle. Many of these forces come with the job and are out of our control. The limit of funds, the myriad of constantly-changing rules and regulations, the lack of support from the state and federal government, and the difficulty of finding and retaining personnel, are challenges that all local governments face. Other examples include environmental and weather events and geo-political issues (and their impact on costs).



Some forces are entirely under our control. Examples would certainly include the current negativity in town (see previous issue), the boycotts, the investigations, the frivolous lawsuits, etc. These forces make that rock that we push against much larger than it needs to be.

Like my uncle taught me, that rock will never disappear altogether.

There will always be challenges for Monterey and the select board, however, there is a great deal we can do to keep that rock smaller and more manageable.

Working together with the recognition that we are neighbors that share a small town, would be a fine place to start. Monterey is still one of the healthiest towns in many ways: financially, culturally, and environmentally—with excellent infrastructure, and emergency and safety services. Indeed, other towns in Berkshire County often use our facilities and services as models of what they wish to have. This is due to our fine employees, our volunteers, and the work of official boards and committees, and many other groups. Each is pushing on their own rocks, each meeting the challenges to our town, with commitment and aplomb.

As for me… it is time that I let someone else push on that rock.

I do not believe in unlimited terms for holders of public office. It is always best to have fresh energies and fresh perspectives in any government. For that reason, I will not seek a third term on the Monterey Select Board.

Like Sisyphus, I will never give up when it comes to Monterey and will remain here to help the new board achieve positive change for the people of our town. It has certainly been a pleasure to work for all of you, and I sincerely hope that my efforts have helped keep that "rock" from moving.

—Steven Weisz
Monterey Select Board, Chair

Editor's Note: In My View *provides individual select board members an opportunity to communicate their thoughts about town affairs—reflections, opinions, and updates on topics of their choice. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.*

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Finance Committee

Annual Informational Meeting

The Monterey Finance Committee will hold its annual informational meeting on the fiscal year 2023 budget on Saturday, April 30, at 11 a.m., location to be decided.

All Monterey residents are encouraged to attend this meeting to discuss the recommendations of the finance committee for the coming year's budget, to learn about the state of town finances, and to ask questions and offer comments.

You can find the final details about the meeting by going to the finance committee's page on the town website, montereyma.gov.

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Council on Aging

The Council on Aging is very pleased to welcome Maureen Banner as the newest member of our board. We are grateful to have her considerable positive energy, artistic talents, and good humor. Maureen has already broadened our perspective and we look forward to our continued collaboration.

We continue to seek additional new members to our board and hope you will think about joining to help develop new ideas on how to best support our Monterey community.

We are currently planning our first major event of the season—a bag lunch at the firehouse pavilion, likely in May. Details to follow. We look forward to a relaxing time together, after a long winter and two years of Covid isolation.

And stay tuned for the activities survey coming in April. It will be quick and easy, and important. We want to hear from you.

Our outreach worker, Emily Hadsell, is available in her office from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Call her at (413) 528-1443, ext. 112, or email coaoutreach@gmail.com, with any questions.

Enjoy our newly sprung spring!

—Lin Saberski
Acting Chair
Council on Aging

COUNCIL ON AGING

E-Alerts

Stay up to date with meetings activities events, news and more.

Go to MontereyMa.gov and click on Subscribe to E-Alerts at the bottom.
Enter and Confirm your email.
Select all the boxes regarding Council on Aging that you'd like to receive.
Confirm your choices and you are all set to start receiving updates.

Assistance or questions?
Emily Hadsell
(413)528-1443 x112 or email
coaoutreach@monteryma.gov

Monterey Renewable Energy Working Group

Many Monterey homeowners have already invested in residential solar arrays, some on rooftops, others on the ground. The process for a private homeowner is straightforward: contact installers, solicit and evaluate proposals, pay the price (accounting for various incentives, most of them tax breaks), complete the project, and welcome the sun as it quietly generates electricity. Net metering is the process whereby generated electricity is sold to the local utility (National Grid in Monterey). If the owner also invests in battery storage, the system can charge batteries when supply exceeds demand, and draw them down when demand exceeds supply. This can work in tandem with net metering: if the batteries are charged up and generation is ongoing, the power can be sold to the utility.

A goal of the Monterey Renewable Energy Working Group is to provide rooftop or ground-mount solar arrays for town buildings, just as homeowners have done. These dispersed, small-scale power plants have minimal visual impact, and they broaden support for the concept and reality of solar power. They replace the combustion of fossil fuels. They can also provide a measure of independence from power generation at utility scale, and reduce the disruption of unpredictable grid failure, conditions of contemporary life beyond individual control.

Building-specific, small-scale solar is not as simple for a town as it is for a homeowner. Proposals, bids, funding, grants—all the details are complicated. Since municipalities are not taxed, those incentives are off the table. There are regional, state, and federal grants that can help—so many, in such variety of amount, purpose, and timing that expert help in pursuing them can be useful and cost-effective. Of course, it comes at a price. Several months into our working group's unpaid, volunteer effort to pluck what we saw as the low-hanging fruit—rooftop solar for town buildings—I can write with confidence that a savvy, substantially remunerated consultant could likely write us a cogent plan of action, complete with suggested funding sources to supplement any appropriations which voters would have to approve. But we're not there yet. We need more familiarity with programs, legalities, financing, and so forth, before we can solicit a plan of action, or assess a proposal. When and if we do ask voters to fund our efforts, we will be clear about costs and benefits.

Although government programs now make a maze of the playing field, and bureaucracies can be ponderous beasts, we welcome all the help we can get, from individuals, entrepreneurs, institutions,

and governments alike. Climate change is a curious emergency: its epochal consequences are too often eclipsed by emergencies that feel more immediate and emotional—war, for a current example. While we need to be clear about our goals and careful in the help we seek, clean energy must remain a priority.

The town has already adopted municipal aggregation, as we mentioned last month. The current supplier of power to all Monterey residents who do not opt out is Dynegy, at a rate of 9.95¢/kWh through 2023. Currently, 56% percent of the electricity Dynegy supplies to Monterey comes from renewable sources, 5% of those sources located in New England. When the select board entered into the current contract with Dynegy in 2020, they sought to balance three factors: low cost, a steady rate, and renewable sources.

As we develop a plan of action, we will continue to promote power generation from renewable sources and educate *News* readers on the subject. We plan to organize a public forum on residential solar and solar installations on working farms. The goal is to engage all who want to invest in electricity from the sun.

We will keep you up to date with monthly reports in the *Monterey News*.

—Peter Murkett, Chair,
Monterey Renewable Energy
Working Group

South Berkshire Kids Playgroup

Monterey Library

Thursdays, 10 to 11 a.m.
April 7, 14, 21, & 28

Join us for free play, storytime, songs and more!! Best for families with children ages birth to 5. This program is free and open to the community, no registration required.

SOUTH BERKSHIRE KIDS

MASSACHUSETTS Department of Early Education

The Pantry PickUp

We Need Volunteers

The Pantry Pickup has been a tremendous success in helping those in our community needing extra support. The Pantry is going strong, but we are in need of more drivers and sorters. Every week we rely on only seven volunteers to make the Pantry happen. Whether it's one Saturday each month or one Saturday per quarter, we need your help.

Driving, which involves either picking up food for the boxes or delivering the complete boxes, involves sixty to ninety minutes of your time.

Sorting and filling the boxes is from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Please email the Pantry at monterey-pantry@gmail.com, or call our dedicated number, (413) 429-4254, and leave a message. Our volunteer coordinator will get back to you to answer any questions and get you on the schedule!

The Pantry will distribute more than twelve hundred boxes of food this year, serving close to fifty Monterey residents per week. More than twenty-five community volunteers are engaged in picking up food from our suppliers, sorting it for distribution, and, in many cases, delivering it to our neighbors who are unable to come to The Pantry.

With the added costs of fuel and food we are all experiencing these days, we have seen an uptick in the number of shoppers needing our Pantry.

Please help us continue this valuable work by making a donation. You will be joining a compassionate group of donors who are supporting households at risk of hunger and strengthening the greater Monterey community.

Financial donations are tax deductible and may be made to The Pantry by a check to the Monterey United Church of Christ. Please write "Pantry PickUp" on the memo line and also on the front of the envelope. Mail checks to: Monterey United Church of Christ, Attn: Pantry, PO Box 182, Monterey, MA 01245.

—Andrea DuBrow

Getting the Monterey News

Pick up in several locations in town.

Have it mailed free of charge.

Receive it via email.

The *News* has been financed by voluntary contributions for over fifty years without a subscription.

Contact the *News* at MontereyNews9@gmail.com. P.O. Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245

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Library News

Egg Hunt

On Sunday, April 17 there will be an egg hunt at the library at 1 p.m. Don't be late! This will be the first one at the new library. The parking lot will be blocked off, and yellow tape will mark the boundaries of the search. We will hope for good weather, but there will be a hunt regardless. Bring your own basket or bag. Many thanks to the Friends of the Monterey Library for sponsoring this and similar activities.

Library Use

As everyone opens up after being shut down all this time, we will be taking small steps to make sure everyone remains comfortable in a space that should be safe for all. We've been getting requests to use the building for various meetings and activities. While we are not quite ready for everything, the council on aging has had movie nights and the Parkinson's support group, the community center yoga and tai chi have spent the winter inside our room, and the children's playgroup has been meeting weekly.

If your group would like to use the space, check our hours on the website first, and look at the calendar to see if anything is scheduled when you are hoping to use the facility. Then go to our homepage (below) and click on the "Building and Grounds use form." Return it to montereylibrary@gmail.com. We'll do our best to keep that up to date.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director
montereymasslibrary.org

Monterey is 175
1847-2022
We've only just begun...
COMMUNITY POTLUCK!
Tuesday, April 12th
6:30
Firehouse
411 Main Rd
Bring a dish to share as we gather to celebrate the official day of incorporation
Wear your favorite Monterey T-Shirt!
Don't have one? We'll have apparel available for purchase

Don't Let The Parade Pass You By!

It's a big deal, our town's 175th Anniversary. This years' Memorial Day Parade is Monday, May 30. Mark your calendars.

- Get a group of friends, neighbors, dogs, and goats!
- Who will you be standing next to?
- Will we have our masks on?
- What will you be wearing when we look back in twenty-five years?
- We'll all gather at the end for a celebration at the firehouse and be part of our town picture!

If you want more information or to book a spot in the parade, write to: MontereyIs175@gmail.com.

—Ilene Marcus and Tom Sawyer

175th Anniversary Book
Submissions Needed

The 175th Commemorative Anniversary Book will highlight many of the incredible elements of Monterey. We want to celebrate all of our town's beauty and everything that we enjoy here—hiking, swimming, gardening, ice skating, snowshoeing, cooking—the list goes on. We cannot do that without your help! We are asking for submissions of special photos, art, and poems about Monterey. We have some ideas for how to organize the book, but a lot will depend on what people submit, so you can help shape the book! We might have sections like The Arts, Outdoors & Nature, Special Events (of the last twenty-five years), and Artisans and Artists. We are also looking for you to share your special "Monterey Memories" (in three hundred words or less please). And finally, we would love to include recipes in the book. Recipe submissions should be no more than one page and please include the source of the recipe and your Monterey-related short story about it.

Please send your submissions to montereybook175@gmail.com.

Thank you!

— Cynthia Makuc, Aldeth Lewin,
Lisa Gelbard LePack.
Anniversary Book Editors

Dignity with Donna Hicks

Our "dignity event" is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, at 4 p.m., at the library and community center. If you need or prefer to attend virtually you can do that. Registration is now live and accessed through the link below.

Communications about the event have ranged from extremely supportive, positive, and optimistic, to quite negative and pessimistic that anything could possibly be done to bring about more civil discourse and conflict resolution by understanding and committing to be a community that honors dignity. I want to make it so clear that this event is *not expected to resolve the conflicts we are facing*. It is a first step to educate us in the dignity model.

There is a saying that "you can't teach an old dog new tricks." Many people believe that nothing can change because we are all fixed in our development. While physical growth and development stops in adulthood, our brains are capable of growth to incorporate new learning throughout the life cycle.

Donna Hicks reminds us that we are biologically pre-determined to violate our own and other's dignity. It is a matter of survival. In order to counteract the biological pull and withstand the temptations to violate dignity, educating ourselves is critical and it is never too late to do so. I do hope that many of you who are skeptical will take this opportunity to open your hearts and suspend judgment and learn together as a community. We hope to learn how to be in relationship with others in such a way that conflict doesn't destroy the relationship. In other words, how to disagree with people's dignity intact.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Thursday, April 14, at 4 p.m.

Refreshments to follow. Books will be available for sale. Email me for more information at laurenbehrman@gmail.com.

—Lauren Behrman

Registration link: bit.ly/3CZAwuM

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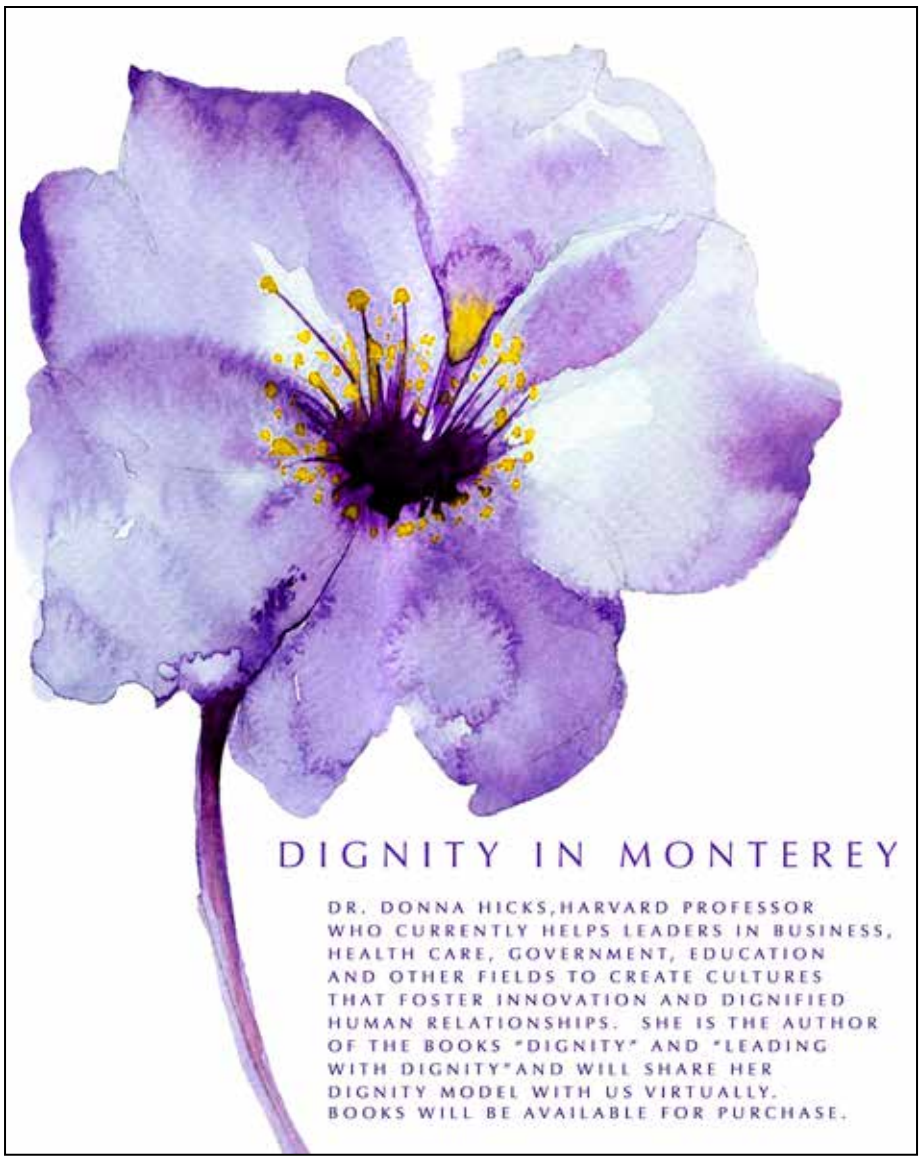
DIGNITY IN MONTEREY
DR. DONNA HICKS, HARVARD PROFESSOR WHO CURRENTLY HELPS LEADERS IN BUSINESS, HEALTH CARE, GOVERNMENT, EDUCATION AND OTHER FIELDS TO CREATE CULTURES THAT FOSTER INNOVATION AND DIGNIFIED HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS. SHE IS THE AUTHOR OF THE BOOKS "DIGNITY" AND "LEADING WITH DIGNITY" AND WILL SHARE HER DIGNITY MODEL WITH US VIRTUALLY. BOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

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Letters

Citizen Petition on the Warrant: No Herbicides, Five More Years

Five years ago we voted on then Article 42, a "Citizen Petition to approve a non-binding resolution that there be no use of chemical herbicides in Lake Garfield for the next five years." The vote is recorded as having been *Yes-Unanimous*.

Now it is time to support the next five years. Some people find pondweeds a challenge. We have an opportunity to be careful, to be observant, and to vote again for a chemical-free Lake Garfield.

There is a citizen petition article on the warrant this year, with the same wording as the one in 2017. Let's give it careful consideration and show our love and belonging in this remarkable natural world where we live. I urge a yes vote, once again.

Chemical response to plants in the lake is not illegal, it is just wrong. It requires repeated application. The new chemical recommended by some is called ProcellaCOR. It has not been in use long enough to have much track record but is "broad-spectrum," and known to kill water lilies, pickerel weed, and arrowhead, which are some of the native plants in our lake.

See you at our annual town meeting,

—Bonner McAllester

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Letters

So Long, Farewell...

Well, at long last, Beth and I will be leaving our jobs at the Monterey transfer station and swap shop. It will be six years for me and a little longer for Beth. April 13 will be our last day. We will miss all the wonderful people we have met.

We are off to visit all our friends and family around the country and see what we can see in between. Once again, we will miss you all and one way or another we will attempt to stay in touch.

—Beth and Dave Gilmore

Letters

Project 351 Clothing Drive

Hi Monterey!

From Sunday, April 2 to Friday, April 8, Project 351, in cooperation with Cradles to Crayons, will be holding a clothing drive in the Monterey Public Library. Cradles to Crayons serves families in need by providing them with essential children's items. Please help us donate clothing to kids of all ages. All clothing up to size adult-small will be accepted. The donation box will be located in the library foyer during library hours, which can be found on the back page and on the library website, MontereyMassLibrary.org.

For more information, email benbvella@gmail.com.

Thank you.

—Philip Enoch and Ben Vella,
Mount Everett eighth grade

Letters

The *Monterey News* welcomes letters on a wide range of topics. Commentary on events and town affairs, notes of appreciation, or alerts for upcoming activities that might be of interest to Monterey readers.

Submit your letters to MontereyNews9@gmail.com, or mail them to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245. Please include your full name and contact information.

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Monterey, MA — David Brown, Owner **HIC #199222**

Letters

This Earth Day: Protecting Webs of Life

This Earth Day, consider a pledge to do more to protect local webs of life and environmental resilience.

There are many things anyone with a patch of yard can do to make Monterey a more pollinator-friendly community, including:

- Cut your lawn area in half and mow less frequently;
- Plant flowering natives that bees love: wildflowers, herbs, berries and other fruits and vegetables;
- Replace invasive plants, such as mustard garlic and goutweed, with native species;
- Use keystone plants, such as oaks, asters, and goldenrod;
- Think about caterpillars as friends, not pests;
- Minimize insecticide use;
- Reduce light pollution;
- Leave some leaves for insect habitat.

Vote yes at the Town Meeting on May 7 to the resolution to make Monterey a Pollinator-Friendly Community.

Libby Wolf, on behalf of the Monterey Native Plants Working Group, is planning to be in front of the general store from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 23 to provide information, answer questions, record pledges, and give away native penstamon plugs that you can plant right away, if you have good drainage. With a little care, they will bloom early in clusters of white flowers.

—Janet Jensen

Monterey Community Center

Active Again!

In March we reviewed our winterfest celebration and began planning already for next year's winterfest. Then we moved on to a small Community Health Program's vaccination clinic, similar to February.

Meditation group: Sandrine Harris is leading a group in person at the community center every Friday in April from 4 to 5 p.m. Donations will be accepted.

Pitch (card game) is resuming on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. The Bridge players say they will resume when they have more players. (Read—Kyle and the snowbirds.) Late April, May. Not sure.

Darn Yarners is coming back on a trial basis. If you are interested, we will be inside at the center, on Thursday, April 7, at 10 a.m.

Game Day and Board Games: the program is taking a hiatus and may return in the summer or fall. We want to thank Aldeth Lewin for bringing so many games, for having patience teaching us, and for her sense of humor. Also, we appreciate Maureen Banner for sharing from her stock, and Virgil and Lis Stucker for recently donating a bunch of board games their family loved, but no longer use.

Chair Yoga will continue with Connie Wilson leading, at the library during April, at least for now, on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. We are looking forward to being outside in May.

Dignity Program: See page 7 for Lauren Behrman's invitation to join the Dignity program on April 14. The community center will be a satellite venue, folks will be watching in the Monterey Library, and some Zooming in from home.

Memorial Day parade: If you have ideas for an community center float for the parade on May 30, and/or want to help with the construction, let me know.

Five years: We are glad to note the fact that we have been open for community events since April 17, 2022. The five years have flown by. What would Edith Wilson, who donated the house and land to the town, for the purpose of a community center think? (Editor's note: The new transfer station had its grand opening on the same day.)

Future programs

In the next few months we hope to have a birdwatching walk, leaving our cell phones in our pockets, turned off, or even—gasp! in our cars or at home, so the birds can be heard instead of stray noises and distractions. Stay tuned for the date or dates.

We are also looking into another mushroom walk and talk, or at least a talk. Late spring.

If you are curious about our calendar of events, please go to ccmonterey.org and click on "Calendar."

If you want to register for an event, you may call (413) 528-3600, or email calendar@ccmonterey.org.

—Mary Makuc
MCC Coordinator

Special School Holiday

Steven Weisz, our soon-to-be former chair of the Monterey Select Board, in a last grasping of supreme power in Monterey, has decreed that, in honor of his birthday, all Monterey students can have Monday, May 30 off from school.

He invites all the students to join him at the intersection of Route 23 and the Sandisfield Road for a pep talk about the value of growing up here, on the "Monterey Way," and just how doggone lucky they are. If they show up and walk with him, he'll buy them all a hot dog lunch by the fire house.

He encourages parents to engage their students during this "free" day with critical thinking skills to help them realize they shouldn't believe everything they read.

—Stephen Moore

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Monterey Youth Book Group

The idea for this article came from wanting to thank Franny Huberman for everything she's done for the library, and one of those things was the youth book group.

The group started in fall 2006 by Franny Huberman and met once a month at the Monterey Library. Most of the children came from Monterey, but there were some from surrounding towns. It ran through at least mid-2012, and even though I've always read for pleasure, it was nice to have a group of people who shared my passion for reading. In late 2009 or early 2010, a writing group was also started and many of the people in the book group joined that group as well. There were also some new people who joined, which got new voices into the room.

We met for community, conversation about both the book we had read the previous month and books we had read on our own time. We ate snacks like grapes, cookies, Milanos, and seeds, filled out *Mad Libs,* and fought over the slightly battered blue fabric chairs in the old children's section. We read fiction and historical fiction, books that took place in small New England towns and in far away India. Some of them were unequivocal favorites, others were passionately fought for by one or two people when we voted in the Massachusetts Children's Book Award at the end of the school year.

Among the books we read were: *Zoom, Paint the Wind, When You Reach Me, The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs, The Penderwicks, Three Cups of Tea,* and *The Conch Bearer*.

Both experiences were great and stuck with many of us. Because of that we wanted to publicly thank Franny for everything she did. We asked several people for their memories, which you'll find below.

—Essy Dean

Front Row: Maura Folmer, Sophie Linscott, Alyssa Mielke, Emma Mielke, Gabi Makuc, Essy Dean. Back Row: Morwenna Moore Boyd, Jonah Carlson, Ana Moore Boyd, Kyle Bashour, Cavanaugh Wolski. —*Photos by Franny Huberman*

My favorite part of book group was when Franny would bring along her "chicken bag," a purse shaped like a chicken that she filled with random small objects and toys. She would pass the chicken around the group and each of us would pull a few things from it, then we would all take turns putting together a story including all of our items. It was so silly and so much fun, and still puts a smile on my face to this day.

—Autumn Snyder

Before I was old enough to join book group, I would sit under a table in the library observing the fun. Book group was one of my most favorite activities growing up. After some time of talking about the book we all read, Franny would spread out a big tablecloth and we'd snack on Pepperidge Farm cookies, popcorn, and play *Mad Libs*. At the end of the year, we would celebrate with a marvelous talent show. *The Mysterious Benedict Society* became one of my favorite books. I just listened to the audiobook version again with some of my dear pals this summer.

—Marya Makuc >

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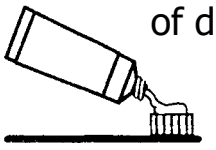
Dentist

All phases
of dentistry



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Left to right: Maura, Joe, Gabi, Sam, Jonah, Justin, Ana, Franny, Morwenna, Mark.

I was one of the original members. There was a talking stick and at the first meeting we wrote down the title and author of our favorite book on small pieces of paper and Franny tied them to the stick with string. Mostly I remember the surge of panic I felt when I had to make a choice. I went with *The Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich since it was one of the few books I had read more than once. It was also when I was starting to be a writer and take language seriously and fell in love with Milanos.

—Essy Dean

Book group and writing group were reliably great opportunities to connect with friends about shared interests, with lots of laughter at every meeting. Some of my most cherished book group memories are the annual shows we put on in the church basement, ringing the bell of agreement, and the excitement of participating in the statewide election for the Massachusetts Children's Book Award.

—Jonah Carlson

Growing up in a small town and being homeschooled, being a part of clubs and activities every week was such an important experience. I've built lifelong friendships with the people I met at book club. For years Franny's continuous excitement and passion for our group was wonderful and I owe a lot of my love for reading to her and our book club. The talent shows were so fun and always gave us a kind space to exhibit our singing, dancing, poetry, and comedy. Thank you, Franny for your love of our community and all your hard work in providing us with a wonderful environment of creativity!

—Shannon Folmer

As a book lover, getting together every week to talk about what we read was a dream come true! Franny chose wonderful books, like *The Night Journey* by Katherine Lasky. Every time I see it in my collection, I'm reminded of what fun we had! A big thank you to Franny for leading us on lovely adventures exploring different worlds and meeting new friends (both literally and metaphorically!)

—Maura Folmer

I have such happy memories of going to the Monterey library once a month to discuss books with all of my best friends and Franny, who was so welcoming, and made us all feel like we had something special and unique to offer.

—Lucy Spieler

I have very fond memories of Franny's Monterey book group. It was a wonderful creative outlet for the youth of the community. It also provided a gathering place for the homeschooled students and students from the local schools to come together.

—Morwenna Boyd

When the book group started, I remember waiting impatiently to be old enough to join, because I could see how much fun the older kids had. After I was old enough to be a part of it, I then waited impatiently each month for the meeting. It was special for me to bond with my friends about the books we loved and chose to vote for in the Massachusetts Children's Book Award, and planning our acts for the annual talent show was one of the most thrilling parts of the year. Titles Franny picked out for us, like *Thunder from the Sea, Weedflower*, and *The Green Glass Sea*, encouraged me to pick up books I may not have otherwise, and I still recommend them to other young readers.

—Ella Carlson

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History of Monterey at 175
The Initial Settlement

On April 12, 1847, Monterey became a separate town from Tyringham. This year, we're celebrating our 175th birthday with a whole series of events as detailed in other articles in the *Monterey News*. Stay tuned!

As I mentioned in last month's edition, the Monterey Historical Society is helping celebrate this milestone with an exhibit in the Monterey Library's Knox Gallery during the month of July. Please rummage through your "attics" and let us know what you have that you'd like to share. See the box for details.

Over the next few months, we'll be sharing some vignettes about our shared heritage. This month, I'd like to reprise some of the early history of Township No. 1 as printed in the commemorative booklet for Monterey's 100th anniversary in 1947 (with only a few of my updates and corrections inserted in italics). Enjoy!

Monterey Is 175!
We Want YOU!

(At least what's in your attic)

Help us showcase Monterey's heritage. Share your old photographs, posters, paintings, documents, and other Monterey memorabilia. All originals will be returned after the July exhibit.

Email:

Rob Hoogs, rhoogs@verizon.net, or Lauren Behrman, laurenbehrman@gmail.com

In 1735, the country between Westfield and Sheffield was a wild, beautiful, and unbroken wilderness. The Provincial Legislature, meeting in Boston at that time, decreed that it should be divided into four townships, which in their prosaic and practical planning were given mere numbers, Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4. It remained for a homesick young man, the Lord Viscount Howe, traveling to war over the rough new road through the Hoosacs from Boston to Albany, to give No. 1 a name. He called it "Tyringham" for a section of England which he loved and was never to see again, since he fell, short weeks later, in a battle with the French at Ticonderoga. *[Note: This is one of several charming versions of how Tyringham got its name, but unfortunately it is not correct. Also, the town was not called Tyringham until it was incorporated in 1762.]*

Not until 1739 did the first permanent settlers come, when Lieutenant Isaac Garfield, Thomas Slaton, and John Chadwick brought their families, their cattle, and their household goods, such as they could carry by wagon, to the south portion of [Township No.1] Tyringham. In August of that same year, Captain John Brewer moved into the vicinity of Twelve-mile Pond [now Lake Garfield], and to fulfill the terms of the agreement by which he had received his grants, built a sawmill to be followed, shortly afterward, by a grist mill.

In return for the mill lot of seventy acres and Six Hundred Pounds in bills of public credit, Capt. John Brewer made the following agreement: "To build a good saw mill in said lot, and complete the same in the space of six months, and be obliged and his heirs or assignees to keep the same in good repair all times for the space of twenty-five years next ensuing and attend the same and saw for the Proprietors, when they shall have the occasion, at reasonable rates, and as cheap as the neighboring mills do saw, and also to build a good grist mill on the said lot and finish it within the space of two and a half years next ensuing, and his heirs and assignees to keep the same in repair for the service of the inhabitants for the space of twenty years next ensuing."

Many of the inhabitants of both Tyringham and Monterey are descended from Capt. John Brewer. This is easy to believe, as he was the father of thirteen children, as was also his youngest son, Col. Joshua Brewer. The size of the families in those days was rather astonishing. Col. Giles Jackson, who was a prominent man in the town during the Revolution, was the happy father of an even two dozen children. *(Note: He actually had twenty children with his two wives plus five stepchildren. See more about him in the sidebar.)*

It was this same Giles Jackson who was credited with drawing up the Letters of Capitulation of Gen. Burgoyne and embossing same. *(Note: Giles Jackson is properly* >

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Colonel Giles Jackson

Col. Giles Jackson was an interesting man who left a lasting imprint on Monterey and American history.

Giles Jackson was the son of John Jackson and Mercy Chadwick. He was born in Weston, Middlesex Co, MA, on January 27, 1733. He married, first, Anne Thomas, on May 29, 1755 in Tyringham, MA. He married, second, as her second husband, Sarah Atwood (widow of Thomas Orton) on May 31, 1781 in Tyringham, MA. Col. Giles Jackson had fourteen children with his first wife Anna (Thomas) Jackson. His second wife Sarah (Atwood) Orton had five children from her former marriage. Together Sarah and Giles had six children.

Giles was a representative in the Massachusetts General Court for fourteen years; a member of the Provincial Congress which met at Watertown, Salem, and Cambridge in 1774. He served at the battles of Bunker Hill, White Plains, Monmouth, Yorktown, and Saratoga. He was commissioned Major of the First Berkshire Regiment in August 1775, and later in the year was appointed Lieutenant Colonel. His regiment was the first to enter Boston after the evacuation by the British, March 17, 1776. He was Chief of Staff of Gen. Horatio Gates at the pivotal Battle of Saratoga, at which Gen. Burgoyne surrendered.

Col. Giles Jackson died on May 4, 1810, aged 77, and is buried in the Old Center Cemetery in Monterey, a short distance from his homestead. Several of his descendants erected an impressive monument in the cemetery. At the dedication, one descendant recalled that, "He was a noble old gentleman, and begat a sturdy race of descendants, and deserves to have his memory perpetuated in granite for his patriotism, and all other virtues of a good citizen and man."

—Rob Hoogs

The inscription on the monument reads: *"In memory of Col. Giles Jackson. Chief of Staff of Gen. Horatio Gates at the battle of Saratoga, Oct. 7, 1777, and author and engrosser of the articles of Capitulation under which Gen. Burgoyne surrendered. He was at the Battle of Bunker Hill 1775, White Plains 1776, Monmouth 1778, where he received commendation for his brave stand. His regiment was the first to enter Boston after the evacuation by the British, March 17, 1776. He was a brave soldier, true patriot, wise counselor and friend in private life. A man of commanding influence in public affairs in his day and generation."*

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credited with embossing, i.e. creating copies of, the document; but current opinion by the historians at the Saratoga National Park is that he did not compose it.) Only recently was this proved, and then through the efforts of getting a copy of Giles Jackson's handwriting. This was obtained through Julius Miner who had in his possession a document so signed. This document was drawn up and signed by 38 citizens who swore never to take up arms by land or sea against the United American Colonies, and to, on the other hand, defend and protect by arms any hostile attempt of the fleets or armies in the service of Great Britain. Among other signers of this important document are John Chadwick, Daniel Markham, David Orton, Stephen Taylor, Eben Chadwick, Isaac Garfield, Amos Northrup, John Hale, Samuel Graves, Wm. Morgan, David Brewer, and Nathan Hale. *(Note: This Nathan Hale of Tyringham is not the same person who said "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country" before being hanged as a spy by the British in Manhattan on Sept. 22, 1776. But the two were related.)*

Next month, we'll continue the story of the early development of Township No. 1 into Tyringham, and eventually into Monterey.

—Rob Hoogs

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Nurturing Culture, Bolstering Hope:
Notes from the Cultural Council

April is the cruelest month
Breeding lilacs out of the dead earth
—T.S. Eliot, "The Waste Land"

"It's the hope that kills you," the last episode of season one of *Ted Lasso* is entitled. This seems to be what T. S. Eliot was getting at in the opening to his monumental poem, "The Waste Land," written in the aftershocks of the First World War and quoted above.

But Ted Lasso, the ingenuous and goofily charming soccer coach at the center of the eponymous show, disputes that idea. "It is hope that saves you," he counters in a pep talk to his team right before a crucial game. "Believe in miracles."

One can also take issue with Eliot on his characterization of the earth as dead. We now know that it is teeming with life, full of seeds and little critters and mycorrhizae and all kinds of life that bring forth the abundance and beauty of spring.

And here in Monterey, creative ideas that have been percolating through the long winter and longer pandemic are starting to take shape. A look at the last issue of the *Monterey News* offers glimmers of the rich cultural life of the town that will soon be bursting forth, along with the crocuses and tulips, and forsythia and yes, lilacs.

As the paper tells us, the Knox Gallery is back in full swing; poetry, artistic expressions abound, and six observances of Monterey's 175th birthday are listed, starting with the upcoming commemoration on April 12 (see page 6), followed by the traditional Memorial Day Parade, which promises to be quite special this year.

The Monterey Cultural Council, whose aim is to support such activities, has recently awarded grants to several events that have a 175th anniversary spin, including Early American History Talks series and the Country Fair sponsored by the Bidwell House and an oral history project at the library. We also have some funding in reserve should new birthday-related needs arise. Other grants awarded for the 2022 granting cycle of the local cultural council include:

- Berkshire Voices Reading Series (Great Barrington Public Theater)
- Children's summer programming intern and oral history project (Friends of the Monterey Library)
- Coffee House series (Monterey Community Center)
- Environmental Education and Stewardship (Greenagers)
- Indigenous Peoples' Day (Alliance for a Viable Future)
- MakerSpaces: Making the Future Brighter! (Flying Cloud Institute, Inc.)
- Mushrooms in our natural environment (JoAnn Bell)
- Art Show Talks (Knox Gallery)
- Programs and Art Shows (New Marlborough Village Meeting House)
- One Box at a Time (Moving Arts Exchange, Inc.)
- Poetry Reading Group (Don Barkin)
- Science and Art of Clay (Jane Burke)
- Story for the Season (Berkshire Children's Chorus)
- TapRoot Sessions (Women in Roots Music Series)
- The Berkshire Ukulele Band and Berkshire Sings (Berkshire South Regional Community Center)
- The Black Legacy Project (Music in Common)
- Towards a Pollinator-Friendly Monterey (Native Plants Working Group)
- Young at Heart (Dewey Memorial Hall)

And we can also look forward to another season of the "What's Happening" discussions about local arts and activities going on in and around town. Stay tuned for more on that series, hosted by Maggie Barkin, to start soon after Memorial Day.

On the subject of hope, I tend to side more with Lasso than Eliot. Still, it gives one pause to find our world in the thick of multiple catastrophes in another April exactly a hundred years after Eliot published his reflections on the grim aftermath of what was thought to be the "war to end all wars." In such times, more than ever, we rely on the arts and sciences and humanities to illuminate the lessons of the past, articulate the challenges of the present and offer hope for a better future.

If you have any thoughts on how your local cultural council can serve better in this regard—or would like to join the group—kindly email us at culturalcouncil@montereyma.gov, or have a chat with one of the members.

—Maggie Barkin, Erica Stern,
Carole Clarin, Dorene Beller,
Stephanie Sloane,
or me, Janet Jensen

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Birds Birds Birds –
My Monterey Big Year

My eyes used to glaze over when birdwatchers would wax poetic about some bird they saw. I had two children, worked full time, and had barely enough time to eat meals—how could I make time for birding? And it seemed like such a sedentary hobby. But one Christmas I received a tube feeder and began to watch birds while eating breakfast. The feeder was only a few feet from my window and seeing them up close I slowly learned to appreciate them. Much later, it became utterly magical viewing a bird with binoculars, and, years later, with a scope. I felt the dendrites in my brain growing through the years as I learned ID marks and songs.

This month, with help from local birders, I have added nine new species to reach a total of forty-five for the year. The new ones include the spectacular wood duck (above at right) and the fabulous ring-necked duck with that highly decorated bill. Both ducks were spotted on Stevens Pond, my favorite pond in Monterey. The wood duck is one of only a few ducks with claws, allowing them to perch in trees where they nest. Sue Kroll alerted me to their presence.

Wood duck, Cornell University, All About Birds.

If you're lucky, you can observe and listen to American woodcocks around 7:30 p.m. They're prehistoric looking things. Kate Ryan invited me to her place to observe one in her yard.

My goal of reaching one-hundred species by December 31 needs help from you, if you are willing. I am happy to bring my scope and share my binoculars so you too can feel the thrill of seeing a bird up close.

If you would like to help with my Big Year in Monterey please contact me. All nature enthusiasts welcome! Email me at pbanducci@gmail.com, or call (413) 645-2035.

—Pauline Banducci

Tick season

Just a reminder that we've entered tick season again. Some points to keep in mind:

- Adult ticks, which are approximately the size of sesame seeds, are most active from March to mid-May, and from mid-August to November. Both nymphs and adults can transmit Lyme disease. Ticks can be active any time the temperature is above freezing.
- Know where the ticks are likely lurking. Ticks usually crawl up from leaves or blades of grass on the ground to the legs. Be extra careful when walking through fields or meadows and on hikes where you may brush up against bushes, leaves, or trees. Try to walk on well-cleared paths.
- Remember that your pets can bring ticks into the house, so give them good checks before coming inside.
- Wear protective clothing. Long pants tucked into socks is the best way to keep ticks from crawling up under the pant leg. Lighter-colored clothing can make ticks easier to see. Treated leg gators with Velcro closures prevent the ticks from climbing up.
- Use repellents. You can spray your own clothes and shoes; just be sure to follow the directions carefully.
- Do regular tick checks. After spending time in tick-infested areas, ask a partner to check you for ticks in areas on your body that you can't see very well. Note that a tick has to be attached to your skin for twenty-four to thirty-six hours for it to transmit enough bacteria to give you disease.
- Small plastic tick pullers are commonly available and are excellent for removing the entire tick attached to the skin.
- A simple and safe way to dispose of a tick is to drop it onto a light-colored surface (so it's visible) and then stick a piece of tape over it. Securely seal it in by folding the tape over on it and dropping it in the trash. No need to do a full toilet flush to remove a single insect.

—Stephen Moore

Editor's Note: Some text from various reputable sources on the internet.

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April at the Knox Gallery

On view at Knox Gallery through April 16, Pauline Nault's *Lean—Clean—Linear* presents fresh, hard-edged, abstract paintings and fresh color combinations. She used her Covid hibernation as time to reflect, learn, and experiment, which she summarizes as an opportunity to focus on the varied properties of line. "The line is a geometric figure that speaks for itself," she offers. "It can make a statement or a complete design."

"Painting is an endless and exciting pleasure," the artist muses. "Come, enjoy the show," she adds, and we hope you agree! You still have time.

Alan Roland: Smalls opens on April 22. And features watercolor paintings that capture the excitement at "Smalls," a jazz club in Greenwich Village, New York, which was opened by Mitchell Borden in 1994. Over its ten-year life span "it became celebrated as one of the most important jazz venues worldwide," the artist states. Roland was a weekly attendee at Smalls, there to draw and paint the musicians while they were playing. His works from the time are those in this exhibit.

Roland tells the Smalls story so colorfully that I am reluctant to paraphrase:

"Smalls never obtained a liquor license. This was a blessing in disguise as it allowed the club to remain open until 7 a.m. nightly. After paying just a $10 cover charge, listeners could bring their own drinks and stay as long as they wanted to. There were lines around the corner every night to get in, and the audience was made up of people of all ages.

"Owner Mitchell Borden was wholly unconcerned with making more than a very, very modest living from the club. All musicians were allowed in free, and he gave the key to the club to over one hundred musicians to practice and rehearse at will. Many musicians lived at the club in one period or another.

"The subjects featured in this show represent a group of musicians that was prominently featured at Smalls, dedicated to the 'Bebop' style of jazz. Each one possessed a unique "voice" of their own within the style originated by Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, and Thelonious Monk, and included revered older musicians who were considered legendary 'Jazz Underground' figures."

Following the family's creative legacy of his grandfather (a star in the Yiddish theater) and father (a noted watercolorist, listed in *Who's Who in America*), the artist attended art school as a child. Throughout his life he has continued artistic pursuit in printmaking, watercolor, and drawing. He studied figurative drawing and painting at the Fashion Institute of Technology, is a member of the American Society of Contemporary Artists, has maintained membership in Artists Equity and is an Associate Member of Audubon Artists. He has received awards from a variety of juried shows. A man of many talents, Roland is a playwright, and professionally practices psychoanalysis in Greenwich Village where a number of his patients are professionally involved in the arts. His family has been in Monterey since 1963.

All Knox Gallery events are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (see back page of this issue). Please visit the library website for current Covid restrictions, such as admission scheduling. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; Facebook.com/KnoxGallery.

—MaryPaul Yates

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From a Distance

A friend asked me to explain
why I remain a stranger here
if I belong somewhere else.
Why these years of exile
far from a city of stone
overlooking the past?

I began by telling him that each moment
feels like a point of departure,
a sun-washed landscape glimpsed
that dissolves too soon
but for a cry echoing in my skull.
That I live in the silence
of life turned inward
and hold on to time
in the stilled seasons of my mind.

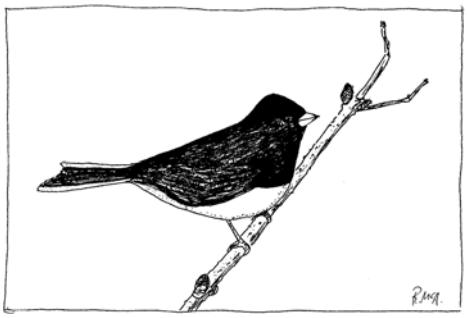
I told him that my dreams long to return,
to sail home to a new beginning,
but can only survive in the dark.
That the grammar of clarity
wanders lost in my mind,
unable to bridge halting, impassable gaps of a mother-tongue
whose distant shore I cannot reach.
That even remnants of sound,
fragments of songs, notes approaching feeling,
are drowned out by the dissonance of a dislocated life
in a babel of misunderstandings,
in an alien realm
where I can only begin to approach myself.

I told him that the time and place I remember—
the home one's heart will not leave—
remembers only my absence.
A landscape of white light, flowering stone,
the eternal song of the sea.
An ancient land of ruins rebuilt, remnants reborn.
A world destroyed—recreated.
An old-new country carved from memories and dreams
of generations of dreamers living their dream.
The impossible surviving to redeem itself.

That perhaps a life apart
is not the road lost,
one's world riven,
that there remains this path,
this hope that there is more to find.

—Amos Neufeld

Snowbirds: Sometimes They Stay



The dark-eyed juncos have been here all winter. We may find our winters cold, dark, and difficult, but to these and other "snowbirds" Monterey is an easy southern place to spend the winter. To us folks, snowbird means someone from around here who goes south, maybe to Florida, not to return until spring. But sometimes these seasonal neighbors decide to stay. Maybe they tighten up the Monterey house so it is cozy in the winter. Maybe they are still hunkering here until it feels safe to travel. Most people do not think of Monterey as the place with the warm winter.

For the juncos, and other avian snowbirds, *this is easy street* in winter. But about this time in spring some are putting on fat to fuel their trip north to their breeding grounds. And even if they are ones who have decided to stay, they need more energy now for the strength to reproduce. Every day the gonads are growing, responding to longer day length.

Back in the day, ornithologists understood there to be several different kinds of juncos. They were called slate-colored junco, Oregon junco, white-winged junco, pink-sided junco, Coue's western junco. They looked different from each other and were separated geographically. But where their ranges overlapped, they would interbreed and for some people this was enough to put all the different groups together as one species. Such taxonomists are known as "lumpers," the others as "splitters," and never the twain shall meet. If we are used to doing things a certain way, we have a hard time giving it up, especially if all our old bird books give us four or five different kinds of juncos. And now we have DNA studies informing what we think we know about what species we are looking at. It ain't easy.

I met a young man on the train in New Mexico and he knew a lot about edible plants and how to makes things out of nettle fibers, for instance. He was working on a length of rope. I asked him if he ever did anything with phragmites, and he gave me a blank look. I described this "common reed" that shows up in disturbed areas and wetlands. It has gorgeous plume of a seed head and grows thickly and tall.

"Oh yes," he said. "I didn't know the name but I know it. I know its energy."

I want to know the energy of the junco, no matter what anyone's current idea may be of its name.

A friend in Monterey has had what he feels are the same twenty-five juncos at the feeder all winter. He has taken the feeders down now that the bears are up, and will miss the little snowbirds. Some may fly north, often in the same traveling groups year after year. Some will stay.

Years ago, we had a junco nesting on the ground right in our garden. This was a sandy place, where we'd planted popcorn and mulched the rows with straw. When I went near, a little bird flew out of a billow of mulch. After that I kept my distance and hoped she'd do okay.

Another time we had a junco nesting outside our doorway. We'd hung

a plastic flower pot there with quite a spray of jasmine vines looping up and out of it. I used to poke my fingers into the dirt to see if it needed water, and one time when I did this, I felt a stout cup of twigs among the delicate jasmine vines. It was a nest, and soon we got to see the bird, a junco holding very still. She laid four eggs, greenish with brown spots in a sort of wreath around the large end. We stopped using that front door and went in and out through our summer kitchen. This was July, more than twenty-five years ago. Maybe some descendants still stay around here winter and summer, like us. Or maybe we are their north country breeding grounds and they migrate down to balmy Sheffield for the winter.

In his day, Edward Howe Forbush, our state ornithologist, knew these birds as slate-colored juncos. In August of 1926 he wrote of taking "a group of camp boys" along the Tuckerman Ravine trail up Mount Washington in New Hampshire. There were still several acres of "snowfields" just

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below the headwall of Tuckerman's and the group saw juncos there. At the top of Mount Washington, two-thousand feet above tree line, there used to be a hotel. These hikers saw a little bird on its ridgepole, "greeting us with its cheery Junco song." Forbush wrote that this "was the only bird which is regularly found in summer in this barren place." He and other writers described the bird as "leaden skies above, snow below." The head, neck, and back are dark, the belly snowy white, as are the feathers on both sides of the tail. Describing the female, Forbush says she is "rufescent-broccoli-brown" on her upper parts, with her sides "more or less tinged light vinaceous-cinnamon."

He describes that cheery song as a trill, and "a faint, whispering warble" as well as various chirps and a characteristic "smacking" or "snapping" note and a "clink" like the sound of two coins or pebbles struck together sharply.

Juncos are ground birds much of the time. The youngsters develop long strong toes and can run fast before they can fly. They scratch on the ground for food, the way chickens do, taking two scratching hops backwards, uncovering all sorts of tidbits. In winter they go around on top of the snow, finding the little seeds that have sprinkled down. Thoreau described this in his *Journal*, December 1, 1863. "A hundred kinds of indigenous grain are harvested now, broadcast upon the surface of the snow. Thus, at a critical season the seeds are shaken down onto a clean white napkin, unmixed with dirt and rubbish, and off this the little pensioners pick them. Their clean table is thus spread a few inches or feet above the ground."

That day Henry Thoreau finished his journal entry in this puzzling way. "Will wonder become extinct in me? Shall I become insensible as a fungus?"

I can't believe he entertained either of these notions. His wonder is not yet and never will be extinct. Also, what is so insensible about a fungus? How should Thoreau, of all people, be considering this. Thanks to him and to Forbush and to our own remarkable human ability to observe and appreciate, any of us can know the energy of both the junco and the fungus. Both are our neighbors, our family in this web of life.

—Bonner McAllester

Steve Graves

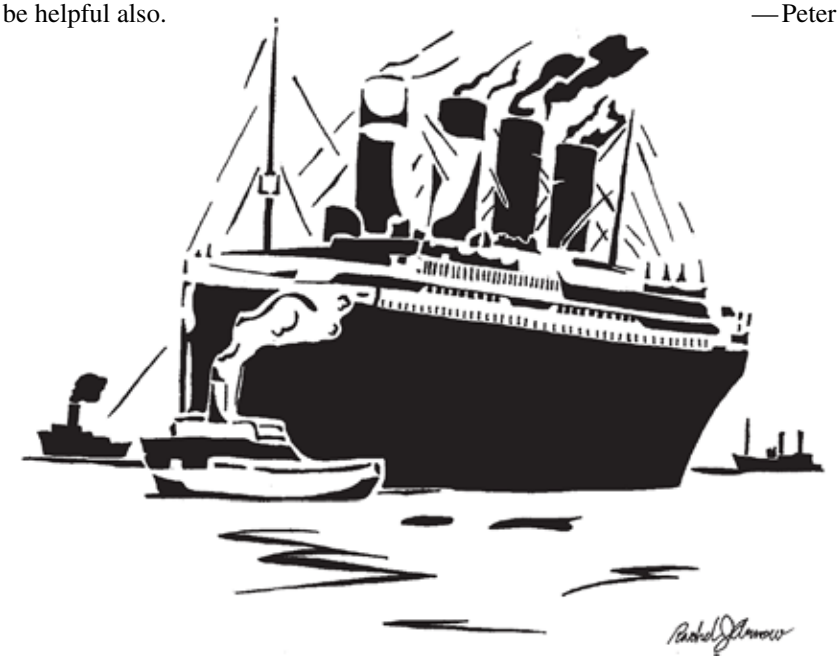
Rink Breakdown

We had great success at the rink this season! Thanks to everyone who helped make and maintain the ice. And to all of you who skated this year.

Now it's time to take it down. Come by on Saturday, April 9, at 9 a.m.

Bring a cordless drill, and if someone could bring a two-wheeled dolly that would be helpful also.

—Peter Poirier



Ocean liner*, by Rachel Jo Arnow, from the April 2007* Monterey News

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From the Meetinghouse

It's been two years since I've written for the *Monterey News*—two really hard years, hard for me personally and for my household, hard for the church I've loved and served for so long, hard for us all. Worse, though we've all gone through this pandemic (this, the very meaning of the word, "pan-demic"), we've gone through it isolated from one another. So, though it's likely we've all struggled, we haven't struggled together, which makes this struggle even more difficult. Perhaps worst of all, this isolation has made almost impossible the already difficult project of imagining one another's lives. But, never easy, imagining another's experience of things is always worth the effort. The fruits of this are patience, forgiveness, compassion, things that lately seem in short supply. True in Monterey. True everywhere.

We might be coming out of it, though, for now anyway. Spring and summer ahead have me, for one, literally saying we've got to make hay while the sun shines, for we know not what fall and winter will bring. We've got to get out and be in one another's presence while we can, while we safely, freely, even joyfully can. And the fact that it's the 175th anniversary of the town's incorporation makes it so we have lots of opportunities to come out, to be in one another's company, and to feel grateful to be cast in one another's lot.

The church is in its 272nd year. Established in 1750, it's one of the oldest organizations in all of Berkshire County. My pastoring it, something I've done now for twenty-one years, is never a responsibility I take lightly. During the pandemic, the weight of it has only seemed greater. This, because the viability of it has seemed ever more precarious. Always an organization that has come down to the efforts of a handful of people, that handful is now even fewer in number. Five people, maybe six—to maintain a building nearly two hundred years old, to stay in good standing with the Commonwealth and our denomination, all while nurturing the faith of our members and participants amidst hardship on top of hardship. Congregationalism is hard work for its members. Like democracy itself, it demands a lot of those who love it. So, we've tried to reimagine how we do things. But recent conversations with possible partners in the project of being a social good in South County have come to "no," which has been nothing short of devastating to me.

What are we to do?

Much will be lost in the world following this pandemic. Many of our congregations throughout the county will be among all that loss. Tragically, the need for what congregational life can bring us is all the more pressing. Access to one another, trust and faith in one another, intimate relating among a company with whom there is little else in common but simple humanity: congregational life is rich soil for diverse growth.

Monterey Church —*Bob Horvath*

The odds are against us, I know. And for so many reasons, I know.

But it's April. It's the month of Easter, that long-ago morning when the weightiest odds were witnessed as upended.

Fools, these early witnesses were thought to be.

Fools.

I've spent my adult life as just such a fool, foolishly hoping a critical mass of people will come along and love this thing as much as I do. I can't say it's easy. But I can say it's the only thing worth doing with all that I am: holding out hope, in the words of the old hymn, that new every morning is the love.

Think of that: tomorrow morning we get another chance to love, to be loved.

A few issues ago of the *Monterey News* there was a list of things in town worth committing to and becoming a part of. Since it wasn't sectarian in its focus, the list wasn't the place to make mention of the church. But this column can be that, so I'll speak up for it here.

I realize the fact that the church is a confessing community, not simply a good cause, complicates any joining up with it. There are those who aren't Christian. There are those who think we aren't Christian. There are those who are active in other congregations. There are those who've washed their hands altogether of religion. But maybe there are people who aren't in any of those categories.

If you're one such, give church a try, where it's consciously confessed that new every morning is love. And, while whether that's objectively true is a matter of faith, the possibility that it might be subjectively true—that it might bring light and joy to the living of your days—is something you might want to try and see.

This I can say: it has for me.

—Liz Goodman
Pastor, Monterey United Church of Christ

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Turkey Vultures
Cleaning the Landscape

One of the first signs of spring may be turkey vultures (often simply called "TVs") circling overhead to clean up carcasses killed by cars, which they can locate from miles away with their keen sense of smell. The flight of a turkey vulture is easily recognized by its pattern of lazy circles overhead. Turkey vultures, also called "turkey buzzards," are very large birds with six-foot wingspans splayed out with a very dark wings followed by pale gray trailing edges. As they fly their wings form a shallow 'V' that can appear a little unsteady as they rock up and down. They hunt to find recent carrion that may have died naturally or remains of animals killed but not fully eaten. Look for them near garbage dumps where carrion picked up by highway crews may be left.

Vultures have suffered from poor public relations since Charles Darwin called them highly disgusting birds habitually tainted by an aura of rotting flesh. Their bright red, featherless heads and necks, as illustrated, let them get away with eating dead putrid bodies. This adaptation reduces the risk of fowling feathers and contacting germs from deteriorating corpses. Avid birdwatchers are content to keep their distance, especially when vultures are feeding their young by regurgitating carrion into their mouths while making guttural grunts and groans with the effort.

Two groups of vultures provide an excellent example of divergent evolution from adapting to varied conditions on several different continents. Strangely enough, all the "old-world" vultures across the pond have absolutely no smelling ability so they can only rely on their vision to locate their food. They must then hunt in low-level flight much like our local harrier hawk. These vultures can use their legs and feet to grasp live prey-like birds and small mammals, a specialized use of these vultures' bodies to survive. The endangered California condor, the largest flying bird in North America, also has very limited sense of smell, however, they soar at tremendous heights.

The turkey vultures in New England have recently been joined by another species, black vultures. Since the mid-nineteenth century black vultures have expanded their range from southern states up into New England coastal states on the eastern seaboard. They have recently been identified on Buzzards Bay and have more and more been seen in our Monterey area.

Now with both turkey and black vultures circling overhead, helping to remove the dead animals, some of which might carry diseases, future generations may benefit from an improved environment. Without the creatures from the largest vultures to the smallest beetles that consume the remains, our environment would quickly become overwhelmed.

— George Emmons

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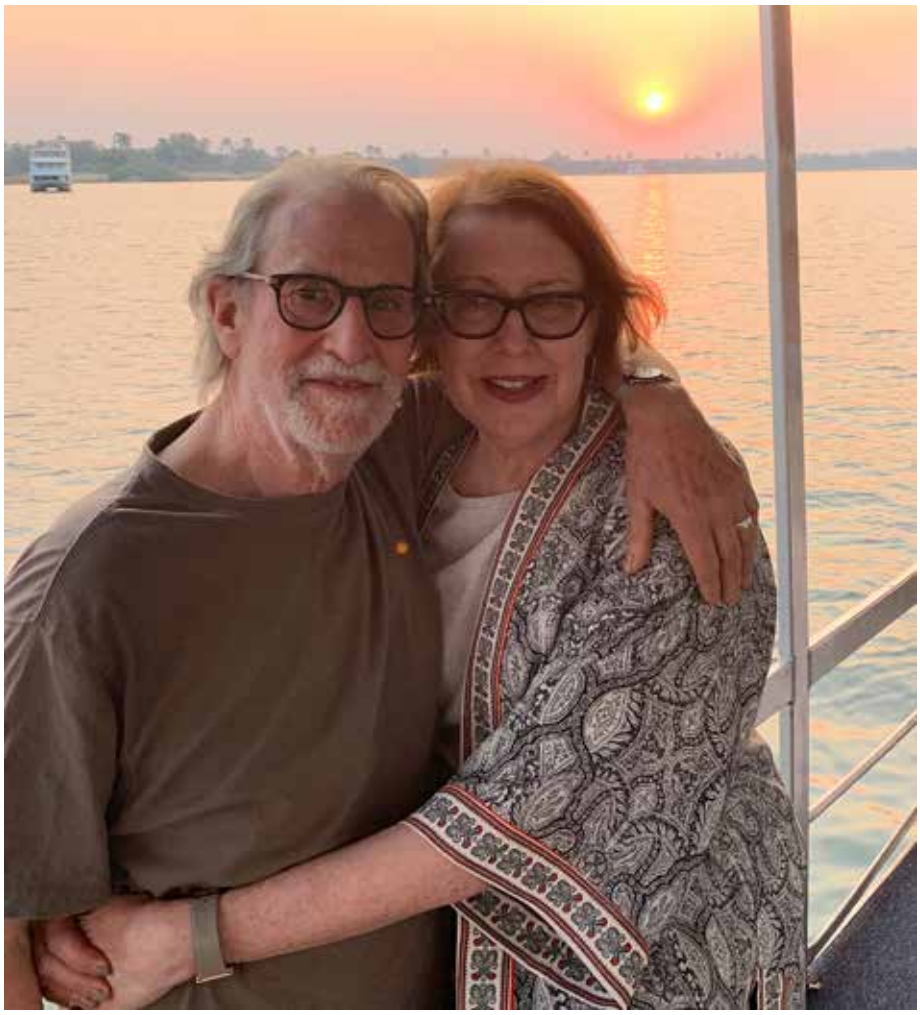
Remembrance
Paul Epstein, 80

Summer after summer, you may have seen him swimming his half-mile workout from the beach to the island and back each day. Or riding his bike home past the lake after a forty-mile training ride. My dear husband, Paul Epstein, has swum his last lap in our beloved Lake Garfield. Paul passed away from cancer and Covid on January 9, 2022 just after turning eighty on October 27. He loved his time in the Berkshires, living for decades on Lake Buel and then on Lake Garfield. When not in the village of Monterey, we lived in Greenwich Village.

Family meant the world to Paul. In addition to Sue, his wife of fifty-seven years, Paul leaves his daughter, Dr. Tamar Epstein Kaye and her partner, Johan Ringenbach, his son, Jared Epstein and his wife, Francesca Rosenberg, and five grandchildren, Chloe and Justin Kaye, and Hollis, Channing, and Waverly Epstein. As their beloved, playful Papa, Paul had memorable relationships and influence on each of our grandkids in unique and special ways. He could be counted on to be playful, a good listener, quietly awaiting their questions or observations, often sharing his vast knowledge of history, nature, literature, construction, film, social justice, or sports. He adored all children wherever he went and was a cherished friend and family member as a loving son and grandson, brother, uncle, cousin.

Born to the late Dorothy and Lewis Epstein, and raised in Maplewood, NJ, Paul was the eldest of three children. An Eagle Scout and high school and college swim team member, he graduated from Columbia High School. He went on to swim and earn his way through Rutgers University. As a nineteen-year-old, Paul took a year off from school to spend time traveling and teaching in Spain and North Africa, then back to Rutgers where he became the cook for his fraternity, Tau Delta Phi, to earn money to return to school. That coming-of-age year, detailed in a memoir he wrote, became a major influence on the roads he was yet to travel. This generous, courageous and highly moral man had a great sense of adventure, traveling to forty-three countries, caring deeply for social justice and the rights of others, caring for our many elders and those less fortunate, and had great fortitude and resilience in the face of adversity. He was a prolific reader, writer, chef, athlete, and maintained his wicked sense of humor right to the end.



On the Zambezi River, near Victoria Falls, our last night in Zimbabwe just before the pandemic hit in the fall of 2019.

Paul was at the forefront of the computer age, first as a consultant and partner in a computer consulting firm, then forming his own company. He attained a Project Manager degree from Villanova. All the while, he remained active as a community organizer, served as a school board member, Boy Scout leader, board of our NYC building, and the Big Brother organization, having been named Big Brother of the Year while living in Watchung, NJ. In the early seventies, we lived on an organic farm where Paul kept bees and was a proud member of the Sheep Shearer's Coop.

Paul's enduring passion was for swimming. He had been a lifeguard, a scuba and wreck diver, swim instructor, and triathlete. Swimming the entire length of Lake Garfield, he raised significant donations for Friends of Lake Garfield. For nearly a decade, he headed the Hupi Woods Association waterfront and every year, swam his age in laps at Berkshire South Regional Community Center. On July 9, 2021 for his upcoming eightieth birthday, while undergoing chemotherapy, Paul swam eighty laps in less than one hour, raising over $35,000 in donations for the "Splash For Sloan 80" endeavor he founded, benefiting genetic-based prostate cancer research at Memorial Sloan Kettering. Six months later, to the exact day and time, he passed away at MSK.

In the early 60s, Paul and I had the good fortune to have found one another at a young age while working at a summer camp for underprivileged kids. We shared an incredible close and loving relationship for nearly six decades. With the music of Bob Dylan >

Bidwell House Museum

Spring is here, the days are getting longer and the Bidwell House Museum is planning for what should be a fantastic 2022 season! We will share all of the details next month, but in the meantime, we want you to "save the date" for a few special events. On Sunday, May 29, we are very excited to welcome back Diane Taraz for her first in-person concert at the museum since 2019. Also back this year for the first time since 2019 is the Bidwell Country Fair! This free and fun community event will be held on Saturday, June 25. Finally, in July, save the date for our summer garden party, "Bidwell in Bloom," to be held on Friday, July 29. We are also planning history talks, guided walks, and more stories around the fire. Stay tuned in May for more information about all of the Museum's 2022 programming.

April Events

While the summer season planning is well under way, we have a few events in April to share with you as well. First, on Saturday, April 9, at 10 a.m., the museum is hosting a guided hike on the property to look at the locations of a possible future timber harvest. The hike is free, but limited to forty people, so pre-registration on the website is required. Go to our homepage (below), and look under "Events" for "Forestry Plans-Guided Tours."

During the last week of April we have two events planned, one on the grounds and one via Zoom. On Tuesday, April 26, at 5:30 p.m. join Tom Ryan, DCR Service Forester, for an evening hike on the grounds of the museum for an overview of the "Forester for the Birds" program. The guided hike will be on established trails and stopping at locations to view pro-active forest management activities that have benefitted migratory songbirds. Our feathered friends are most active at this time of the year at dawn and dusk. The hike is free and you can register at our homepage (below), by looking under "Events" for "Crafting Bird Habitats."

The next evening, on Wednesday, April 27, at 7 p.m., take a fascinating look at the code writing of Adonijah Bidwell, with scholar David Powers. Reverend Bidwell left copious shorthand notes in code and cipher, and because his short-writing (coded short-hand) changes over time, unpacking his notes presents unique challenges. In this talk, Mr. Powers theorizes that in addition to the two obvious ciphers Bidwell employed, Bidwell employed a third code—not lexical, but semantic. Through a curious metaphorical interplay, he ostensibly spoke of the devil while his actual subject was the American Revolutionary War. This program will be held via Zoom and attendees can register on our homepage (below), by looking under "Events" for "Three Codes." Details for how to access the event will be sent via email a few days in advance.

As always, the museum gardens and grounds are open every day, year-round, and free of charge. Don't forget, spring means mud, so if you are planning a visit and have any questions about the condition of the road, call the museum at (413) 528-6888.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director
BidwellHouseMuseum.org

shaping our couplehood, we respected one another's strengths and tolerated the weaknesses, grew together as we learned, made our mistakes, supported one another in good times and in bad and all those in between. Life together with Paul was never boring. We shared so much yet retained our own individualism. Our mantra, "you shouldn't let other people get your kicks for you," guided us and kept us spontaneous. In our hearts, Paul is greatly missed but his legacy is felt in the countless lives he's touched as he remains "forever young" in our cherished memories of him.

—Dr. Sue Epstein

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Here's a Thought...
Heart to Heart

My promised follow-up to last month's article about the Selma-to-Montgomery anniversary march for voting rights hasn't matured yet. But it will be on its way to you after conversations with my friends who were there.

I have a friend who used to live on Nantucket. She collected heart-shaped stones that settled on a beach near her home. We'd go there together when I visited, and always found more of them than it was reasonable to expect. I haven't found such a consistent treasure trove of them anywhere else. So, I was surprised by the one I found today on my walk.

April's the cruelest month, the poet said. This year, with what we're all carrying, it's more true than usual, both nationally and abroad. In a recent article she titled "Ukraine of the Heart," Joan Halifax wrote, "It is now more than ever functionally intolerable to turn away from what is happening in the Ukraine and in many other parts of our world, whether the Ukraine, Afghanistan, or the streets of Chicago."

The streets of Chicago and the displaced people, soldiers, and destroyed cities in Ukraine definitely tug at my heart. Barriers to valid voting rights in the US and the larger numbers of people showing up on Saturday mornings at the Meetinghouse to bring home food are nestled in there, too.

It's so much I find it easier to feel the reality of what happens close to home, or in a place that already has some resonance in my life. Maybe that's true for you, too. Ukraine is one of those places for me.

While I was growing up my parents were divorced and Mom began to work outside our home. Though it was quite a luxury in our then-circumstances, she hired a woman to come in to clean the house. Mom and Mary Kyrk worked side by side a half-day every other week, and more got done than just cleaning, important though that cleaning was.

Mary was the first outside-the-family immigrant I'd ever known. Her presence made the larger world more real to me.

On my walk this afternoon (March 20), I found a heart stone, almost underfoot on Stevens Lake Road. And isn't any heart you're privileged to touch a treasure?

She also had a quirk that still brings a smile to my face. Mom kept a laminated saying on the windowsill over the kitchen sink. In bold, black upper-case block letters it declared:

SMILE. GOD LOVES YOU.

And after Mom drove Mary to her own home at the end of Mary's workday, we'd find that same laminated card back in its place on the clean windowsill, but always upside down. Every time.

It was a mystery until an aha! moment struck. Mary was illiterate in written English, but when the card was upside down to us, those letters looked rather like the letters in the Cyrillic alphabet from her native language. Since Mary had lived a good part of her life in her native Ukraine, our upside-down writing was also her most-familiar. Both-and, rather than either-or.

Now, sixty-five years later, nothing's just located "over there" any more. "Over There" was sung more than a century ago, in the "war to end all wars," World War One. Everything was over there—on the other side of an ocean or the other—from us then.

Now everything's close to home. Those we call "others" aren't objects we can discard as inconvenient. We are all people, whether civilized in a familiar way, or even not at all. People—we're family, the human family.

So, how do I navigate our messy family dynamics without having my heart turn to stone? It's an ongoing project. One of my aims is to refuse to add to the contagious psychic burden of hatred. Some days, some moments, I'm a lot more successful than others. And I couldn't even begin to try to do it without leaning on my spiritual teachers.

One of my spiritual teachers famously said years ago, "Let the little children come to me." And he went on to say, in so many words and ways, "We are all children of one Father, and, Father forgive them, they don't know what they're doing." I've been praying prayers I learned at his knee when I was a little child. Prayers for all the people, and places, and events in my heart. And this prayer from the Buddhist tradition, too:

If I have harmed anyone in any way, either knowingly or unknowingly through my own confusions, I ask their forgiveness.

If anyone has harmed me in any way, either knowingly or unknowingly through their own confusions, I forgive them.

And if there is a situation I am not yet ready to forgive, I forgive myself for that.

This time in history, this time in our lives, is hard. May we be gentle with ourselves and each other as we find our way.

—Mary Kate Jordan

Make Monterey a Pollinator -Friendly Community

Janet Jensen

Two intrepid members of the Native Plants Working Group, Judy Kaminstein, left, and Julie Kern, braved a wild March storm to collect signatures for the Citizen's Petition to Designate Monterey as a Pollinator-Friendly Community.

"What does this resolution actually do?" Justin Makuc asked on March 9 when we presented a citizen's petition to designate Monterey as a Pollinator-Friendly Community to the select board.

It was a fair question, since the resolution is non-binding and has no enforcement mechanism.

But the answer is straightforward. Assuming that it is approved by the townsfolk who attend the May 7 annual town meeting, the resolution will put on record the town's commitment to a more sustainable, balanced, and resilient ecosystem. The article encourages the town leadership and citizens to create a nurturing habitat for the insects and other pollinators that are so essential to the web of life. One of the best ways to do this, biologists, entomologists, and horticulturalists tell us, is by re-establishing the communities of plants that evolved here and nurturing a wider diversity of plants and animals.

It means that when landscaping or restoration is done on town properties—the parks, the roadsides, the community center, town hall and library—native plants should be considered as the priority option. And it states that the town will encourage local residents to do so as well.

The full text of the petition is available on the Town of Monterey website, complete with a list of "whereas" clauses that explain its rationale. But the call to action is essentially this:

The Town of Monterey is hereby declared a Pollinator-Friendly Community and the town encourages, to the extent possible, the adoption of policies and practices that support ecological health by prioritizing the planting of native species in landscaping, land management, and restoration efforts; reducing the use of pesticides; and encouraging property owners, residents, and town departments to adopt pollinator-friendly best practices, including:

- Avoiding the planting of cultivars and flowering plants that are treated with systemic insecticides;
- Planting diverse grass mixes for lawns that include low flowering ground covers;
- Reducing lawn mowing schedules so as to allow these flowering ground covers to bloom, thereby lowering overall maintenance costs;
- Where possible, replacing portions of grassed areas with low maintenance flowering perennial shrubs, wildflower corridors, and trees;
- Minimizing the harmful effects of light pollution; and
- Allowing fallen leaves to remain along property borders under trees and shrubs as overwintering sites for insects (and birds).

We realize that landscaping with native plants and cutting back on mowing and allowing fallen leaves to remain may be a departure from exotic cultivars showcased in neat and rigorously manicured gardens. It may entail a sharp learning curve, as well as a shift in one's landscape aesthetics. It may take some experimentation to get right. But it is a direction and an aspiration, one that can make a big difference in the local environment over a relatively short time.

It took Julie and Frank Kern a few years of hard work and significant inputs to transform their compacted horse pasture to a lush landscape of mainly native plants. But once they did, says Julie, the change in the wildlife they saw on a regular basis was dramatic: turtles, foxes, butterflies of all kinds. Moths and bees and frogs and birds they had never seen before. Using native plants is a way to harness the power of nature's intricately interconnected relationships.

The native plants working group aims to be a resource towards Monterey's transition to a more pollinator-friendly community. We've already organized a few talks on the subject, and plan to host more. We have a resource list available to anyone who requests one. In collaboration with the Monterey Parks Commission, we are planning a native plants demonstration garden near the fence toward the northern end of Lake Garfield Beach Park. For Earth Day, we hope to get commitments from residents to take a couple of steps toward a more pollinator-friendly yard. Eventually we hope to be able to offer resources: advice, seeds, seedlings, and whatever else may be needed, to encourage residents who want to do their own native plantings but may need some help.

As Doug Tallamy, the guru of the movement to bring nature to your community or your backyard puts it, "every little bit helps."

—Janet Jensen

March Wildlife

Many Birds and the First Bear

The skunk cabbages are blooming in some of our wet places (below) and early bears are moving around above ground. Some

bird feeders have gone down for the season, but Bonsai Cox still has them out, and a fat bear enjoyed a visit and lay down on all those sunflower seed shells for a rest (photo). A handsome skunk came to that same place (at right) and the possums are reliable visitors, too (at right bottom).

Over on Hupi Road, the snowstorm of March 12 brought a great clamor of birds to the Edelmans' feeders: chickadees, juncos, goldfinches, and a Carolina wren (at right). A squirrel came, too, and with no problem folded itself into a small, roofed plastic feeder attached by some suction cups to the window (also at right). A mile or so away, the Banners' squirrel posed for a portrait, sitting on the ground (photo).

The Banners also sent a close-up (photo) of a lovely spring bluebird, as well as the gory account of male bluebirds duking it out with serious intent. There is no photo of that, thank goodness. This is a family publication.

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Ed Salsitz and Arrie Setiawati have taken their feeders down, though they will miss the big crowd of juncos that came reliably all winter. In the canine department, Julie Johnston reports a fluffy fox gobbling down suet that had somehow sprung loose from its "cage" up on a tree trunk. I wondered if there were a squirrel accomplice in this story. And over at the Sawyers' place on Route 23 a coyote came for breakfast at the compost pile and stayed for about ten minutes (photo). The Sawyers also report seeing a mink or otter crossing Route 23 in the Stevens Pond neighborhood.

Adam Brown was walking in the wet woods behind Brookbend and the library and saw a woodcock. He says it flew off "for safer cover." These birds are well camouflaged and often stay safe just by holding still, as below. They also have a marvelous courtship flight, and they have another common name: timberdoodle.

Julie Johnston was visited late in March by a gang of turkeys, nearly all boys who were in full display for courtship. She took some great photographs and wrote that these males are all in competition for the attention of that lone female, who seems unimpressed by any of them (above).

Peter Murkett came upon a place where many ash trees had been cut down (at right). This was not a "sanitation cut," which is on the docket for Bidwell House. No chainsaws or skidders were involved here, and every bit of the downed ash trees will be put to local use, either by the beavers or by the slow fires of decay feeding soil organisms in ways we barely understand. From salamanders looking for shelter to mycorrhizae carrying the word and the nutrients from the cells of one species to those of another. This is the web of life with more intricate cycles than we can imagine.

Thank you for your wild news.

—Bonner McAllester
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The Great Horned Owl

Great horned owls are one of the largest masters of the skies along the south shore of Buzzards Bay, relying on both sight and sound for hunting prey. They are similar in size to snowy owls, with a wingspan of up to six feet and weighing in the range of five pounds. Great horned owls are known to prey on bald eagle nests, and in a fight, with ferocity equal to the bald eagle, either bird might be victorious.

They are sometimes called "tiger owls," with their tufted ears and bright yellow-eyed ferocious stare. They may take on porcupines, snakes, and coyotes with fatal results for both prey and predator. If you have recently heard distant hooting on deep mid-winter freezing nights, this might indicate nest building activity. They are the first birds to start nesting, possibly as early as January, as in my illustration. They typically hatch two or three chicks.

Both parents take part in selecting a nesting site, frequently ones left vacant by other birds, twenty to sixty feet off the ground. They sometimes nest on a cliff ledge or broken-off tree stump by adding a few sticks and branches as a roosting platform, or in larger hollows in trees. Exposed nests are sometimes blown apart during the winter, so the young chick's ability to hang on is an important evolutionary adaptation. After a month-long incubation, the chicks stay in the nest for six weeks before entering a "branching phase" where they will cling tightly to nearby branches. Both parents provide small mammals such as mice, rats, rabbits, ground squirrels, lizards, frogs, and some birds. While they are ready to fly on their own at two months and begin hunting, they stay with their parents for most of the summer to gain advanced hunting skills.

Watching young owls being encouraged to fend for themselves is so entertaining that some avid birdwatchers may consider putting up a nest box to attract a breeding pair of adults. Be sure to attach a guard across the entry to prevent predators from raiding eggs and vulnerable new hatchlings. The presence of even other species of owls on your property such as the tiny saw-whet owl can endanger a nest. These owls in bright moonlight add a quintessentially ghostly storybook spirit, as in the Harry Potter series.

While great horned and other owls can be difficult to observe directly, doing so will fascinate you and others with the environmental awareness brought on the silently-feathered wings of these secretive nocturnal avians.

—George B. Emmons

Editor's Note: George Emmons, now in his ninety-sixth year, is so devoted to the preparation of his columns and drawings that the Monterey News *now has several new ones. There was space in this issue, and as this is an active time for great horned owls, it is worth publishing in this issue.*

The Otis Gazette's 2nd Annual Business Directory
& Household Resource will be Mailed to Every Home
in Otis, East Otis, Sandisfield & Monterey in June, 2022.
If you're business does business in this area
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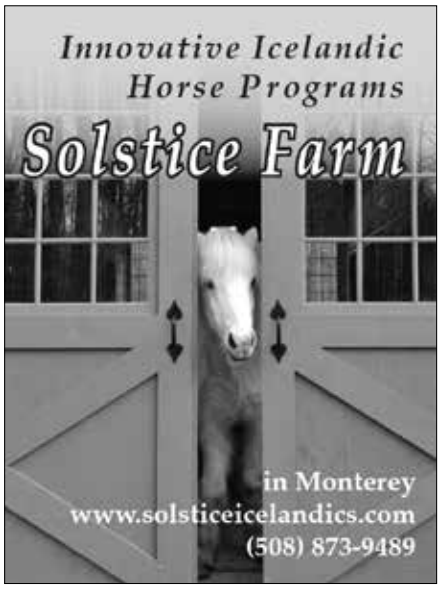

Tales from the General Store
12 Sandwiches to Go ... and Go

This story has been making the rounds in Monterey in April 2007. (It was also on the front page of the Berkshire Eagle*.) Good for another round. Like most stories it evolves with the telling and retelling. Here's a version (from the April 2007* Monterey News*).*

On a recent morning Sammy Brown, music and deli maestro at the Monterey General Store, took a call about 11:30 from a woman ordering twelve sandwiches, which she said she would pick up around noon. The caller was obviously familiar with the menu since she knew the names and ingredients of the sandwiches she ordered. It was the busiest time of the day at the deli counter, but this was a big order, so Sammy set to.

Noon rolled around and no one showed up to pick up the lovely sandwiches. Then 12:30, 1:00, 1:30—still no show. When Kenn Basler, the general store proprietor and general raconteur, came in a little before 2:00, Sammy told him the sad tale. Kenn, a little nonplussed and facing a sizable minus in a meager winter/early spring stretch for the store, was able, using the wonders of modern technology and a little known clause of the Patriot Act, to track down the telephone number of the caller, which he promptly called. All he got was an answering machine, onto which he deposited a suitably pithy message.

A few minutes later the phone rang. It was the woman, apologetic and flustered. She said that she would be right in to pick up the sandwiches, but that she was a little lost. Could Kenn give directions?

Kenn: "Sure, where are you now?"

"Well, I'm on Pacific Coast Highway heading south … just passed Main Street, but it appears to be all residential …"

Kenn, pausing: "Okay, it's easy. Just take the next left and go three thousand miles …"

Modern times: traveler approaching the other Monterey (okay, they did have the name first and Clint Eastwood was the mayor and they got Pebble Beach, but we got the general store and the turkeys and Lake Garfield) uses her laptop to google (nice verb, that; sounds like something you do with your sweetie) Monterey eateries to find a deli, and, hey, right there at the top is the Monterey General Store, with such a delectable sandwich selection—and who reads the fine print …

One could almost make a Modern Times fable out of this—you know, how we're all sort of, like, connected but none of us knows where we really are …

—Will Marsh

Epilogue

A recent roadside conversation with John Sellew had him remembering details of this stories. "I think my daughter Oona was working there that day. Kenn just started handing the sandwiches out to anyone."

Later I ran into Kenn and he laughed at the memory. "She was so embarrased that she paid for the sandwiches anyway so I just started giving them to anyone who came in to get one!"

—Stephen Moore

Contributions for March

The *Monterey News* really appreciates contributions anytime during the year. During the spring and early summer readers will see our annual fund appeal arrive in their mailboxes, in their emails with the digital version, or slipped into copies picked up around town. This appeal funds the majority of our expenses for the coming year. This community asset has published continuously for more than fifty-two years based primarily on your voluntary contributions.

Thank you for the folks who contributed during March and to all those who will clip and send in their contribution forms in the coming months.

—*Monterey News* Board of Directors

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Berkshire Fish Hatchery
2022 Fishing Derby Dates

All events are on the second Saturdays, from 9 to 10:30 a.m., for children thirteen and younger.

The dates for this year are:
April 9
May 14
June 11
July 9
August 13
September 10

The derby is held at the lower pond at 240 Hatchery Road, New Marlborough (go down River Road in Monterey).

Sponsored by Friends of the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

—Linda Thorpe

Falling Through the Ice
An Almost Tragic Accident

That blast of cold temperatures that filled Monterey at the very end of February seemed to lead to a continuation of the good ice everywhere. I had my two grandkids, Melinda and Deven, visiting from central New York for a long weekend and thought I'd take them skating. They both play hockey in a pee-wee league at home, and brought their skates and sticks with them.

The ice in the firehouse pavilion rink looked pretty good, and so without any hesitation we tied on our skates and sped out onto the ice. We had the whole ice to ourselves. But after a few minutes I heard a scream and looked over in the corner to see that Melinda had fallen through! Her hockey stick wasn't too far away where it had landed when she fell in. I grabbed the stick, lay down on the ice, inched my way closer until Melinda could grab the blade on her stick and I pulled to help her climb out.

She wasn't hurt, just soaking wet and shaken up. I figured there must be a warm spring in the corner that rises up and warms the ice from underneath, thinning it. A close call, but it all ended well enough with a hot fire and cups of cocoa back home.

—Ron Belfast

Town Seal by Edith Wilson

MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

— Steven Weisz, Chair
John Weingold and Justin Makuc
Monterey Select Board
(steve@montereyma.gov)
(johnweingold@gmail.com)
(justin@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us" at montereyma.gov.

For agendas and links to watch public meetings of towns and boards, go to the town website (above), select the board or commission of interest, and choose "Agendas" or "Minutes." Links for online viewing are listed in the agendas.

You can also search YouTube.com for more recent meeting videos. Search "Monterey, MA Board & Committee Meetings" and click on videos.

Police Emergency Contacts

- For real emergencies, call **911**.
- The email address for the dispatch service is:

  dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us.

- Police dispatch service number:

  (413) 236-0925.

- For non-emergencies to contact the Monterey Police Department, call:

  528-3211

Household Hazardous Waste

For Residents of:

Alford, Becket, Dalton, Egremont, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Richmond, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham, West Stockbridge

When: Saturday, May 14th, 2022, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Where: Lee Wastewater Treatment Plant
379 Pleasant Street, Lee, MA, 01238

What to Bring

From The Yard/Garden	From The Workbench	From The House	From The Garage	Mercury Products:
Pesticides, Fungicides	Rust Proofers	Drain Cleaners	Fuels/Gasoline/Kerosene	Thermometers
Herbicides	Wood Preservatives	Oven Cleaners	Brake & Transmission Fluids	Thermostats
Insect Sprays	Wood Strippers & Stains	Floor Cleaners	Car Wax, Polish	Other mercury
Rodent Killers	Paint Thinners	Metal Polish	Engine Degreaser/Motor Oil	Button Batteries
Muriatic Acid	Lead & Oil-Based Paint	Arts & Crafts Supplies	Swimming Pool Chemicals	
Flea Powder	Varnish	Photo Chemicals	Driveway Sealer	
No-Pest Strips	Full Aerosol Cans	Chemistry Kits	Antifreeze	
Chemical Fertilizers	Sealants	Rechargeable Batteries	Car-Lead Acid Batteries	
Lighter Fluid	Adhesives			
Moth Balls	Solvents			

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Assessor: 528-1443 x115
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Building Department: 528-1443 x118
buildingsafety@montereyma.gov
Community Center: 528-3600
calendar@ccmonterey.org
Fire Department (non-emergency):
528-3136, chief@montereyma.gov
Highway Department: 528-1734
dpw1@montereyma.gov
Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com
Police Department (non-emergency):
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mpdchief@montereyma.gov
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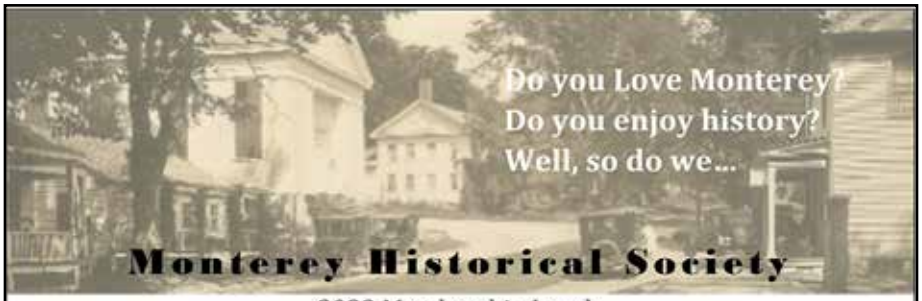
Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)
Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov

Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.



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Calendar

MCC- Monterey Community Center

Tuesdays:

Chair yoga with Connie Wilson, 10 a.m., library.

Pitch card game resuming, 1 p.m. MCC.

Saturdays: Ping-pong, 2:30 p.m., MCC.

Fridays through April: Mindfulness meditation, 4 to 5 p.m., MCC. See page 9.

Sunday, April 2 through April 8: Cradles to Crayons clothing drive. See page 9.

Thursday, April 7: Darn Yarners returns! 10 a.m., MCC. See page 9.

Saturday, April 9:

Hockey rink breakdown, firehouse pavilion, 9 a.m. See page 19.

Berkshire Fish Hatchery fishing derby, 9 to 10 a.m., see page 29.

Bidwell museum guided hike for future timber harvest. 10 a.m. See page 23.

Tuesday, April 12: Community pot-luck supper, 6:30, firehouse pavilion. See bottom right.

Thursday, April 14: Dignity event, 4 p.m., library and MCC. See page 7.

Sunday, April 17: Egg hunt at the library, 1 p.m. sharp! See page 6.

Saturday, April 23: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Native plants working group available at general store. See page 9.

Tuesday, April 26: Bidwell museum, "Forester for the Birds" hike with Tom Ryan. 5:30 p.m. See page 23.

Wednesday, April 27: Bidwell House Museum lecture series, "Code Writing of Ajonijah Bidwell," 7 p.m. See page 23.

Thursday, April 30: Finance Committee open meeting to discuss the budget. 11 a.m., location to be decided. See page 3.

Council on Aging Services

Wellness Clinic: The wellness clinic will take place on Thursday, April 14, from 2 to 3 p.m. Appointments to take blood pressure and do an assessment are no longer necessary.

Parkinson's Support Group: This month's meeting is on Thursday, March 3, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Monterey Library. Call (413) 528-1443, ext. 247 if you'd like more information about the program.

Transportation: For seniors and people with disabilities. Trips to Great Barrington and Pittsfield. Call (413) 528-1881. Forty-eight-hours notice required to be sure of a ride.

Foot Nurse: Beverly Dunn is available for home visits. Call (413) 446-2469 to schedule an appointment. Council on aging covers $10 of her fee.

Free Safety Vests: Vests to ensure you are visible to car traffic are available in town hall for walkers and bikers through the council on aging.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may be sent via email to montereynews9@gmail.com or to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245.

For advertising rates or other information, contact the Editor at (413)528-4007 or email.

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COMMUNITY POTLUCK!
Tuesday, April 12th
6:30
Firehouse
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Bring a dish to share as we gather to celebrate the official day of incorporation
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Contributions from local artists this month:
Rachel Jo Arnow, p. 19; George Emmons, pgs. 21, 28;
Bob Horvath, p. 20; Bonner McAllester, p. 18;
Kit Patten, p. 2.

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